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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/600,913	09/05/2000	Werner Opitz	H 3266 PCT/US	2582

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EXAMINER

SINES, BRIAN J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1743

DATE MAILED: 02/04/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/600,913

Applicant(s)

OPITZ ET AL.

Examiner

Brian J. Sines

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1743

-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 November 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 15-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 15-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1 and 15 – 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beck et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,259,960 A) in view of Surjaatmadja et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,192,509 A). Regarding claims 1 and 25, Beck et al. teach a process for the determination of the alkalinity of a cleaning bath containing a surfactant, wherein the process comprises the following steps: (a) drawing a sample of specified volume from a cleaning bath; and (b) determining the alkalinity of the sample using an acid-base reaction with an acid (col. 6, lines 7 – 14; col. 14, lines 5 – 34). Beck et al. is silent to the specific teaching of providing for an automated process for determining the alkalinity of the cleaning bath. However, Surjaatmadja et al. do teach an apparatus and method for automatic titration. Therefore, it would have been obvious to incorporate the

Not mentioned
Quality

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automatic titration method and apparatus, as taught by Surjaatmadja et al., with the process, as taught by Beck et al., since the Courts have held that to provide a mechanical or automatic means to replace manual activity, which accomplishes the same result, is within the ambit of one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Verner*, 120 USPQ 192 (CCPA 1958). Regarding claim 15, Beck et al. teach that the samples are filtered to remove solids prior to the step of determining alkalinity (col. 16, lines 16 – 24). Regarding claim 16, Beck teach that free alkalinity is determined in the step of determining alkalinity (col. 14, lines 5 – 34). Regarding claim 17, Beck et al. teach that total alkalinity, or reaction product (RP), is determined in the step of determining alkalinity. Total alkalinity is generally defined as a measurement of a cleaning bath's total concentration of active materials as well as contaminants. Beck et al. teaches that an RP value of 1 is equivalent to 95 ppm of aluminum (col. 14, lines 5 – 34). Regarding claims 18 and 19, Beck et al. teach the step of determining alkalinity comprises titrating the sample by addition of an acid (col. 14, lines 5 – 16; col. 20, lines 50 – 56). Regarding claims 20 and 27, Surjaatmadja et al. teach outputting the result of step (b) above using a graphics output (42) (col. 3, lines 1 – 11). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include the step of outputting the results of the titration process in order to facilitate ease of interpretation of the results. Regarding claims 21 and 24, Surjaatmadja et al. teach the use of a computer (40), which can be used for process control and data storage (col. 3, lines 1 – 11). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to store the results of the titration process in order to monitor the process. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to

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include the step of inputting an external request using a computer to initiate the steps comprising the titration process in order to provide control for the titration process.

Regarding claims 22, 23, 26 and 28, Surjaatmadja et al. teach that the automatic titration apparatus may be used to automatically repeat the titration process in a continuous mode (col. 4, lines 1 – 24; col. 4, lines 40 – 45). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to automatically repeat the steps comprising the titration process in order to effectively monitor and control the cleaning bath process. It would have been obvious to include the step of adjusting the duration of the specified time interval based on a comparison of the results of step (b) on consecutively drawn samples in order to effectively monitor and control the cleaning bath process. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to repeat the titration steps after a specified time interval and the step of determining the alkalinity of one or more standard solutions is initiated if the result of the results of step (b) on two consecutively drawn samples differs by a preselected values in order to effectively monitor and control the cleaning bath process. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to repeat the titration steps automatically after a specified time interval and to further include the steps of either: analyzing the results of a plurality of alkalinity determinations; automatically termination the process; activating a detectable signal; or adjusting the operation of a measuring device, in order to provide for effective monitoring and control of the cleaning bath process. Regarding claim 29, Surjaatmadja et al. teach the use of pH probes, such as pH-sensitive electrodes (col. 1, lines 11 – 51). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include the use of a pH-sensitive

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electrode in the titration process in determining alkalinity, which are well known in the art. Regarding claim 30, Surjaatmadja et al. teach the use of electromagnetic radiation (col. 3, lines 26 – 38). Regarding claim 31, Surjaatmadja et al. teach the use of a color detector (60) (col. 3, lines 26 – 38). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include monitoring the color changes during the titration process in order to effectively monitor and control the cleaning bath process. Regarding claim 32, Beck et al. teach that 0.10 N sulfuric acid reagent is used in the titration process (col. 14, lines 5 – 16). Regarding claim 33, Beck et al. teach the step of activating a detectable signal in response to a determination of a preselected level of one or more reagents (col. 14, lines 5 – 34). Regarding claim 34, Surjaatmadja et al. teach that the result of step (b) above may be transmitted to a remote location from a field location (col. 3, lines 1 – 11 & 39 – 50). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to further include transmitting the result of step (b) to a remote location in order to effectively monitor and control a plurality of cleaning bath processes. Regarding claim 35, Beck et al. teach the step of adding one or more pH-adjusting components into the cleaning bath in response to the result of step (b) above being a preselected value (col. 12, lines 41 – 53; col. 16, lines 25 – 55). Regarding claim 36, Beck et al. teach the step of adding one or more replenishing components to the cleaning bath if the result of step (b) above is below a preset value (col. 20, lines 13 – 17).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 15 – 35 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

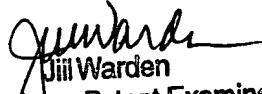
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian J. Sines whose telephone number is (703) 305-0401. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (11:30 AM - 8 PM EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill A. Warden can be reached on (703) 308-4037. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

BJS
January 27, 2003


Jill Warden
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1700